

## CLAIMS

- 1 A method of containing peas comprising the steps of providing a container  
mounted on a vehicle and containing a pea load, maintaining the concentration of  
oxygen at or above 15% by volume throughout the container and maintaining the  
5 concentration of carbon dioxide at or below 1% by volume throughout the container.
- 2 A method of containing peas according to Claim 1, wherein a conduit is  
provided having an inlet in communication with the outside atmosphere and an outlet  
in communication with the interior of the container.
- 3 A method of containing peas according to Claim 2, wherein the inlet faces the  
10 forward direction of travel of the vehicle.
- 4 A method of containing peas according to Claim 2 or Claim 3, wherein the  
outlet of the conduit is positioned near the bottom of the container.
- 5 A method of containing peas according to any of Claims 2 to 4, wherein the  
container comprises a main part to receive the peas and a cavity to receive the outlet  
15 of the conduit, the cavity being formed at the bottom of the container and being  
separated from the main part by a gas permeable partition.
- 6 A method of containing peas according to Claim 1, wherein at least a part of  
the container rotates about an inclined axis.
- 7 A method of containing peas according to any previous claim, wherein a fan  
20 establishes a gas flow through the peas.
- 8 A method of containing peas according to any previous claim, wherein a gas  
flow rate, flowing through each square metre of the pea load in a plane generally  
perpendicular to the air flow, is between  $600 \text{ L min}^{-1}$  and  $16000 \text{ L min}^{-1}$ .
- 9 A method of containing peas according to any previous claim, wherein a gas  
25 flow rate, flowing through each square metre of the pea load in a plane generally  
perpendicular to the air flow, is between  $1000 \text{ L min}^{-1}$  and  $14000 \text{ L min}^{-1}$ .

- 10 A method of containing peas according to any previous claim, wherein the container has an opening which is provided with a removable cover and which allows the flow of gas between the container and the outside atmosphere.
- 5 11 A method of containing peas according to any previous claim, wherein the concentration of oxygen throughout the pea load is maintained at or above atmospheric air levels.
- 12 A method of containing peas according to any previous claim, wherein the concentration of carbon dioxide throughout the pea load is maintained at or below atmospheric air levels.
- 10 13 A container for containing peas provided with means for establishing a gas flow through the container to maintain the oxygen concentration at or above 15% by volume throughout the container and the carbon dioxide concentration at or below 1% by volume throughout the container; the container being mounted on a vehicle.
- 15 14 A container for containing peas according to Claim 13, the container comprising a main part, in which in use the peas are received, and a cavity, the main part and the cavity being separated by a gas permeable partition, the container being provided a conduit having an inlet and an outlet, the outlet being located in the cavity and the inlet being located outside the container.
- 20 15 A container for containing peas according to Claim 14, wherein the inlet of the conduit faces the forward direction of travel of the vehicle.
- 16 A container according to Claim 13, containing peas, wherein at least a part of the container rotates about a slightly inclined axis.
- 25 17 A method of processing peas including the steps of harvesting peas, introducing the peas into a container according to any of Claims 13 to 16, transporting the peas to a processing station, blanching the peas and freezing the peas.
- 18 A method of processing peas according to Claim 18, wherein the peas are then packaged.